

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1 A method for providing an online digital marketplace, the digital marketplace having a plurality of digital files for access by consumers over a network, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) allowing a content owner to post a file on the marketplace for access by users by,
 - 10 (i) providing information about the file,
 - (ii) setting a retail price that users will be charged for downloading the file, and
 - (iii) setting a reseller commission for the file;
 - (b) allowing a first user to search for files posted on the digital marketplace for one to resell on a third party website;
 - (c) allowing a second user to search the files posted on the digital marketplace for one to download;
 - (d) if the second user selects a particular file to download, charging the user the retail price set for the file;
 - 20 (e) if the second user downloads the particular file from the third party website, paying the first user the reseller commission set for the file; and

- (f) paying the content owner a payment based on the retail price minus the reseller commission.

2 The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

- 5 (g) allowing the content owner to monitor download statistics for the file the content owner posted and to change the retail price and the reseller commission for the file in real-time.

3 The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

- 10 (g) generating revenue for the digital marketplace by subtracting a transaction fee from the payment made to the content owner.

4 The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

- 15 (i) allowing the content owner to set the retail price and the reseller commission both positively and negatively.

5 The method of claim 4 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

- 20 (ii) requesting the content owner to choose pricing options for the file, including a subscription plan, a pay-per-download, and a publisher-sponsored download.

6 The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

- (i) requesting the first user to enter display options for the search.

7 The method of claim 6 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the step of: including as the display options showing free files, pay-per-download files, or files listed as resalable.

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8 The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

(i) requesting the first user to enter sorting options for the search.

9 The method of claim 6 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the step of: including as the sorting options sorting the matching files by popularity, by date, by size, by price, and by the reseller commission.

10 The method of claim 3 further including the step of: implementing the digital marketplace as a website on a network.

11 The method of claim 3 further including the step of: implementing the digital marketplace as a peer-to-peer network.

12 A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for providing an online digital marketplace, the digital marketplace having a plurality of digital files for access by consumers over a network, the computer-readable medium comprising the instructions of:

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- (a) allowing a content owner to post a file on the marketplace for access by users by,
 - (i) providing information about the file,
 - (ii) setting a retail price that users will be charged for downloading the file, and
 - (iii) setting a reseller commission for the file;
 - (b) allowing a first user to search for files posted on the digital marketplace for one to resell on a third party website;
 - (c) allowing a second user to search the files posted on the digital marketplace for one to download;
 - (d) if the second user selects a particular file to download, charging the user the retail price set for the file;
 - (e) if the second user downloads the particular file from the third party website, paying the first user the reseller commission set for the file; and
 - (f) paying the content owner a payment based on the retail price minus the reseller commission.

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13 The computer-readable medium of claim 12 further including the instruction of:

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- (g) allowing the content owner to monitor download statistics for the file the content owner posted and to change the retail price and the reseller commission for the file in real-time.

14 The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further including the instruction of:

(g) generating revenue for the digital marketplace by subtracting a transaction fee from the payment made to the content owner.

5 15 The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of:

(i) allowing the content owner to set the retail price and the reseller commission both positively and negatively.

10 16 The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of:

(ii) requesting the content owner to choose pricing options for the file, including a subscription plan, a pay-per-download, and a publisher-sponsored download.

15 17 The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

(i) requesting the first user to enter display options for the search.

20 18 The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of: including as the display options showing free files, pay-per-download files, or files listed as resalable.

19 The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

- (i) requesting the first user to enter sorting options for the search.

5 20 The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of: including as the sorting options sorting the matching files by popularity, by date, by size, by price, and by the reseller commission.

21 The computer-readable medium of claim 14 further including the instruction of: implementing the digital marketplace as a website on a network.

22 The computer-readable medium of claim 21 further including the instruction of: implementing the digital marketplace as a peer-to-peer network.

23 A method for providing an online digital marketplace, the digital marketplace having a plurality of digital files for access by consumers over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) allowing a content owner to post a file on the marketplace for access by users by,
 - (i) providing information about the file,
 - (ii) setting a retail price that users will be charged for downloading the file, and

(ii) requesting the content owner to choose pricing options for the file, including a subscription plan, a pay-per-download, and a publisher-sponsored download.

5 26 The method of claim 25 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

(i) requesting the first user to enter display options for the search.

27 The method of claim 26 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the step of: including as the display options showing free files, pay-per-download files, or files listed as resalable.

28 The method of claim 25 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

(i) requesting the first user to enter sorting options for the search.

29 The method of claim 28 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the step of: including as the sorting options sorting the matching files by popularity, by date, by size, by price, and by the reseller commission.

30 The method of claim 24 further including the step of: implementing at least six pricing models for file downloads within the digital marketplace, including a pay-per-download a model, a subscription model, a broadcast model, a private download model, a donation, and an infomercial model.

31 The method of claim 25 further including the step of: implementing the digital marketplace as a website on a network.

32 The method of claim 31 further including the step of: implementing the digital marketplace as a peer-to-peer network.

33 A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for providing an online digital marketplace, the digital marketplace having a plurality of digital files for access by consumers over a network, the computer-readable medium comprising the instructions of:

- (a) allowing a content owner to post a file on the marketplace for access by users by,
 - (i) providing information about the file,
 - (ii) setting a retail price that users will be charged for downloading the file, and
 - (iii) setting a reseller commission for the file, wherein both the retail price and the reseller commission may be set positively and negatively;
- (b) allowing a first user to search for files posted on the digital marketplace for one to resell on a third party website;
- (c) allowing a second user to search the files posted on the digital marketplace for one to download;

- (d) if the second user selects a particular file to download, charging the user the retail price set for the file;
- (e) if the second user downloads the particular file from the third party website, paying the first user the reseller commission set for the file;
- (f) paying the content owner a payment based on the retail price minus the reseller commission and
- (g) allowing the content owner to edit the file information and to change the retail price and the reseller commission in real-time.

34 The computer-readable medium of claim 33 further including the instruction of:

- (g) generating revenue for the digital marketplace by subtracting a transaction fee from the payment made to the content owner.

35 The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of:

- (ii) requesting the content owner to choose pricing options for the file, including a subscription plan, a pay-per-download, and a publisher-sponsored download.

36 The computer-readable medium of claim 35 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

- (i) requesting the first user to enter display options for the search.

37 The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of: including as the display options showing free files, pay-per-download files, or files listed as resalable.

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38 The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

(i) requesting the first user to enter sorting options for the search.

39 The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of: including as the sorting options sorting the matching files by popularity, by date, by size, by price, and by the reseller commission.

40 The computer-readable medium of claim 39 further including the instruction of: implementing at least six pricing models for file downloads within the digital marketplace, including a pay-per-download a model, a subscription model, a broadcast model, a private download model, a donation, and an infomercial model.